37

DEF 12-5 JORDAN

EXCISE

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

773

3 Action

SS Info

SECRET

QMA559VV KGA460
PP RUEHCR
DE RUQMKG 86A 2540714
ZNY SSSSS
P R 110703Z
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 146
INFO RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 22
RUDKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT SIX
RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON 31
RUCJHK/CINCSTRIKE
RUFGNC/DEFREPNAMA PARIS
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T SEPT 11

LIMDIS

CINCSTRIKE FOR RAMSEY

SUBJECT: SUPERSONICS FOR JORDAN

FROM BARNES

09013

1965 SEP 11 AM 4 11

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY S. Dunnefee DATE 2/2/84
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE OADR
TS AUTH J. Burks REASON(S) CDC Memo
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒ 5/13/85
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☒ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS b-1

LATE EVENING SEPTEMBER 10 JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE WAS PRESENTED WITH SUMMARY KHAMMASH-FRENCH TALKS RE SUPERSONICS SET FORTH BELOW. I WAS TOLD MESSAGE HAD PERSONAL APPROVAL KING HUSSEIN AND WAS REQUESTED INFORM USG URGENTLY:

1. FOLLOWING RESULTS GENERAL KHAMMASH DISCUSSIONS FRENCH ON MIRAGE

DEAL:

A. MIRAGE III C OUT OF PRODUCTION. TO SATISFY JORDAN REQUEST FOR THIS AIRCRAFT, FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN NEW PRODUCTION LINE WHICH WOULD BE COSTLY AND IMPRACTICAL. FRENCH OFFERED INSTEAD MIRAGE III E WHICH IMPROVED MODEL AND WILL ALLEGEDLY BE IN SERVICE WITH FRENCH AIR FORCE UNTIL 1980, INSURING AVAILABILITY FUTURE SPARES.

B. COST TO JORDAN OF III ECHO COMPLETELY EQUIPPED, INCLUDING MATRA 530 AIR TO AIR MISSILES, IS APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILLION DOLLARS PER AIRCRAFT. ROUGH TOTAL FOR SQUADRON OF 20 QUOTED AT 80-90 MILLION DOLLARS.

(1)

2- 146, SEPTEMBER 11, FROM AMMAN

C. FRENCH CLAIMED EARLIEST DELIVERY DATE 1969. KHAMMASH TOLD THEM THIS SAME DATE GIVEN HIM MONTHS AGO BY FOREIGN OFFICE, WHICH HE TOLD AT TIME WOULD BE IMPROVED. FRENCH REPLIED THIS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE IN 2-3 WEEKS BUT GAVE NO ASSURANCE TIME COULD BE CUT.

D. KHAMMASH ASKED FOR TEN YEARS CREDIT. FRENCH COUNTERED WITH FIVE. COMPROMISE POSSIBLE AT SIX OR SEVEN SINCE KHAMMASH UNDERSTANDS LEBANESE OFFERED SEVEN YEARS.

E. INTEREST WILL BE SET PREVAILING COMMERCIAL RATE OF BANK OF

PAGE 3 RUQMKG 86A S E C R E T
FRANCE AT TIME CONTRACT SIGNED. ESTIMATED AT FIVE TO SIX PERCENT.

F. FRENCH PROVIDED NOTHING IN WRITING BUT SAID COULD PREPARE DOCUMENT ALONG ABOVE LINES WITHIN FORTNIGHT.

B1-(5a) 3B3

2. [redacted] B-1

[redacted] DELIVERY DATE UNACCEPTABLE TO JORDAN AS IT CERTAINLY WILL BE TO UAC AS WELL. PRICE IS OUT OF QUESTION. COST IS OVER FOUR TIMES PRICE OF MIGS AND THE 6.5 MILLION POUNDS ALLOTTED BY UAC FOR EACH SQUADRON. JORDAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO NEGOTIATE SLIGHT INCREASE OF 10-15 PERCENT IN UAC ALLOTMENT BUT IMPOSSIBLE EVEN TO RAISE QUESTION OF 400 PERCENT INCREASE. OTHER TERMS OF FRENCH OFFER CLEARLY NOT SATISFACTORY BUT PRICE AND DELIVERY DATE RULE IT OUT COMPLETELY IN ABSENCE DRAMATIC CHANGE IN FRENCH PROPOSAL OR APPROPRIATE USG ASSISTANCE.

3. THUS JORDAN GOING TO SUMMIT WITHOUT WRITTEN OFFER AND WITH HANDS VIRTUALLY TIED ON THIS ISSUE. THIS WAS EXACT POSITION THEY FEARED. NOW THEY FACED WITH IT. THEY RECOGNIZE IT PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ALTER SITUATION IN THREE DAYS REMAINING BEFORE CONFERENCE. [redacted] JORDAN WILL BE GENERALLY WEAKER AT CONFERENCE AND COMPLETELY VULNERABLE ON SUPERSONICS AS RESULT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. JORDAN DELEGATION WILL PUT UP BEST FIGHT IT CAN TO KEEP FROM BEING BOXED ON THIS

B1-(3a)B